

REMARKS

Applicant is in receipt of the Office Action mailed September 20, 2005. Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Blake et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,574,854 (hereinafter "Blake"). Claim 1 has been canceled, thus rendering this rejection moot. New claims 2-18 have been added.

Applicant respectfully submits that Blake or other prior art does not teach the subject matter recited in claims 2-18. In particular, claim 2 recites the first program receiving a request for input from the measurement/control program and selectively routing the request for input to either a simulation program or an input device, depending on whether the system is in simulation mode. Inasmuch as Blake does not teach these features, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 2 is patentable over Blake. Claims 3-16 are dependent upon claim 2, and thus, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are allowable for at least this reason. Claims 3-16 also recite further distinctions over Blake.

Independent claims 17 and 18 recite similar features as claim 2, and are thus also believed to be allowable, for reasons similar to those set forth above.

CONCLUSION

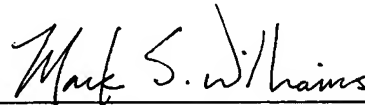
Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5150-42901/JCH.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

☒ Return Receipt Postcard

Respectfully submitted,



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Agent for Applicant(s)

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